

Applicants: Yasuharu Suda and Hiroaki Kuno
Serial No.: Not Yet Known
Filed: Herewith
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Support for new claim 19 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, at page 10, line 17-22. Support for new claim 20 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, at page 11, line 11-15.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Amendment be added.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following references which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (**Exhibit 1**). These references were previously cited in connection with the prosecution of U.S. Serial No. 08/911,616, from which the subject application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120. According to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of patents or publications that were previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office in connection with such prior applications need not accompany the Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, copies of the following references are not attached to this Information Disclosure Statement:

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,058,470 to Moschovis et al., issued November 15, 1977;
2. U.S. Patent No. 3,939,087 to Vijayendran et al., issued February 17, 1976;
3. European Patent Application Publication No. 0 224 912 to Larson James, R., published June 10, 1987;

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4. Obata Shinichiro, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 95, no. 11, August 15, 1995;
5. Higuchi Yoichi, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 18, no. 48, October 22, 1993;
6. Yamamoto Kyoichi, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 17, no. 485, May 18, 1993; and
7. DATABASE WPI Abstract of Publication No. JP 53 057 039 dated May 24, 1978.

Applicants maintain that none of the above-listed references discloses or suggests applicant's claimed invention.

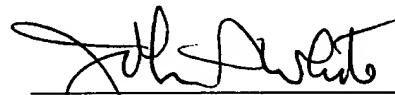
Applicants also submit herewith as **Exhibit 2**, a copy of a European Search Report issued November 28, 1997 in connection with corresponding European Patent Application No. EP 97 11 3883.9.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone the number provided.

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No fee, other than the enclosed fee of \$690.00 for filing the subject application, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



John P. White
Registration No. 28,678
Attorney for Applicants
Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 278-0400

Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office						Atty. Docket No. 54490-Z		Serial No. Not Yet Known		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)								Applicant Yasuharu Suda and Hiroaki Kuro				
								Filing Date Herewith		Group		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS												
Examiner Initial		Document Number				Date		Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate	
		4	0	5	8	4	7	0	11/15/77	Moschovis, et al.		
		3	9	3	9	0	8	7	2/17/76	Vijayendran, et al.		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS												
		Document Number				Date		Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
		0	2	2	4	9	1	2	6/10/87	Europe	Yes	No
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)												
		Obata Schinichiro, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol 95, no. 11, August 15, 1995										
		Higuchi Yoichi, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 18, no. 48, October 22, 1993										
		Yamamoto Kyoichi, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 17, no. 485, May 18, 1993										
		DATABASE WPI Abstract of Publication No. JP 53 057 039 dated May 24, 1978										
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED								

Applicants: Yasuharu Suda and Hiroaki Kuno
U.S. Serial No. Not Yet Known
Filed: Exhibit 1